



# JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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This year will appear two important collections of essays about the 18th century, tributes to two of our most inspiring teachers and scholars — Chauncey B. Tinker and George Sherburn. Neither volume is strictly in the old Festschrift tradition, being not mere gatherings of miscellaneous papers provided by admiring students and colleagues. With the intention of attaining a certain degree of unity of subject matter, each has been carefully designed to cover one restricted field of English literature — the Tinker volume, the Age of Johnson, and the Sherburn volume, the Age of Pope.

Although planned independently, the volumes do not overlap at all in subject matter or contributors. Consequently, the two taken together provide a kind of survey of the whole 18th century, not a complete literary history, to be sure, but a series of valuable studies of most of the major figures. They will provide a companion set which every one of you will certainly want to own.

## The Age of Johnson

The first of the collections to appear is *The Age of Johnson: Essays Presented to Chauncey Brewster Tinker*, published by the Yale University Press. Generations of Yale undergraduates and advanced students have fallen under the spell of Tinker's dramatic recreation of the age he so loved. There can be little doubt that "Tink," as he is affectionately known to all his intimates, has inspired more interest in the mid-18th century, has produced more collectors of Johnsoniana, of 18th-century poets and novelists, than most of the other teachers of the Johnson circle all rolled up into one. He has had the supreme gift of making the period and its personalities come alive to generation after generation of students — not only for serious—

minded scholars who planned to teach, but also for incipient scientists, brokers, bankers, insurance executives — what you will. During his great period as a teacher there went out a never-ending stream of enthusiastic young men, eager to pick up first editions of Boswell and Johnson, or a stray letter of Fanny Burney, or a rare printing of one of the novelists. The New York auction rooms are filled with active buyers who owe their first urge to collect to his exciting lectures on "The Age of Johnson."

But "Tink's" influence has not been merely to make an older period live for casual amateurs. He has produced some of the most eminent bibliographers, research scholars, and critics of our day. There has never been anything superficial about his approach; in graduate classes the emphasis has been on exhaustive research and thorough study. And the international reputation of his best pupils bears witness to his scholarly inspiration.

While his greatest influence has been exerted on the circle of students at Yale — his "jewels" as he sometimes calls them — there is many a scholar unconnected with Yale who has reason also to call him blessed. Not easily impressed at first, once he was certain of the serious determination of the stranger asking for help he was generosity personified. Your editor can bear witness, with deep emotion, to one overwhelming gift, made to one unhappily never one of his "jewels."

The structure of the present book follows that of Tinker's fabulous course, beginning with Dr. Johnson and the members of The Club, then widening out to take in the major novelists, poets, and significant artistic and historic figures of the day. Following a delightful Introduction by W. S. Lewis, there are 36 short essays, each produced (with one exception) by scholars who have actually been enrolled in Tinker's classes.

It is obviously impossible here to discuss in detail all the contributions. Johnson, naturally, looms large in the series. There is the sensational opening essay by Katharine Balderston (Wellesley), originally read at the 18th century conference at Smith College, in Jan. 1947, in which she presents certain evidence of masochism inherent in Johnson's "vile melancholy." There are R. B. Sewall's (Yale) "Dr. Johnson, Rousseau, and Reform"; Sidney L. Gulick's (San Diego State) "Johnson, Chesterfield, and Boswell"; and Allen T. Hazen's (Columbia) "New Styles in Typography," in which he discusses Johnson's apparent lack of



interest in the printing format and typography of his own works, in an important age of change. There is F. A. Pottle's (Yale) very important analysis of Boswell's journals and the development of his dramatic method. Concerned with the other Club members are:

T. W. Copeland (Yale), "Boswell's Portrait of Burke"  
 E. L. McAdam (N.Y.U.), "Goldsmith, the Good-Natured Man"  
 F. W. Hilles (Yale), "Sir Joshua's Prose"  
 Mary E. Knapp (Western College), "Garrick's Last Command Performance"

Lewis P. Curtis (Yale), "Gibbon's Paradise Lost"  
 Irving L. Churchill (Coe), "Thomas Percy, Scholar"  
 Benjamin C. Nangle (Yale), "Charles Burney, Critic"

In the section on the novelists we find (Alas! there is space only to mention titles):

Irma Z. Sherwood (Oregon), "The Novelists as Commentators"  
 W. M. Sale (Cornell), "From *Pamela* to *Clarissa*"  
 James A. Work (Stanford), "Henry Fielding, Christian Censor"  
 Lewis M. Knapp (Colorado College), "Smollett's Self-portrait in *The Expedition of Humphry Clinker*"  
 Rufus Putney (Colorado), "Laurence Sterne, Apostle of Laughter"  
 Edwine Montague and Louis Martz (Yale), "Fanny Burney's *Evelina*"  
 William Ruff (Florida), "Ann Radcliffe, or, The Hand of Taste"

Concerned with the poets are:

Margery Bailey (Stanford), "Edward Young"  
 Ralph M. Williams (Trinity), "Thomson and Dyer: Poet and Painter"  
 Donald M. Foerster (W. and M.), "Thomas Gray"  
 Virginia Prettyman (Wellesley), "Shenstone's Reading of Spenser"  
 B. H. Eronson (Calif.), "Thomas Chatterton"  
 Kenneth MacLean (Toronto), "William Cowper"  
 J. W. Egerer (Dartmouth), "Burns and 'Guid Black Prent'"  
 Margaret Lowery (Washburn), "Blake and the Flaxmen"  
 W. K. Wimsatt (Yale), "The Structure of Romantic Nature Imagery"

In the final section, in addition to the Johnsonian papers mentioned earlier, there are:

Ellen D. Leyburn (Agnes Scott), "Bishop Berkeley: Metaphysician as Moralist"  
 Warren H. Smith (Yale), "Horace Walpole and Two Frenchwomen"  
 Katherine Hornbeak (Smith), "New Light on Mrs. Montagu"  
 Donald C. Gallup (Yale), "Baretti's Reputation in England"  
 Lansing V. Hammond (Commonwealth Foundation), "Gilbert White, Poetizer of the Commonplace"

Robert E. Moore (Minn.), "William Hogarth: the Golden Mean"  
 Elizabeth Manwaring (Wellesley), "The Smiths of Chichester"  
 Bruce Simonds (Yale), "Music in Johnson's London"

It is safe to say that the volume will delight readers so long as the Age of Johnson itself has any popularity. Many congratulations to Ted Hilles and his helpers, to the Yale Univ. Press, but most of all to "Tink" without whose inspiration, of course, the collection could never have come into being!

## Pope and His Contemporaries

Announcement is just now being made of the other volume mentioned earlier — the collection of essays concerned with Pope, Swift, and other writers of the early 18th century, to be presented to George Sherburn of Harvard on his 65th birthday, late this year. There is little need to stress for all of you the way "Sherb," as he is known to a multitude of friends, has affected our understanding and appreciation of the first half of the 18th century. His contributions in the field of student anthologies have done much to combat the almost universal Romantic prejudices of undergraduates; his *Early Career of Alexander Pope* set a standard of careful, patient, biographical research; and his recent history of 18th-century literature is easily the best so far produced. His great edition of Pope's letters, now happily nearing completion, will undoubtedly be a landmark of exhaustive, accurate handling of a most complicated problem. As biographer, literary historian, and editor, he has been in the forefront of twentieth-century scholarship.

But it is not merely by his published work that the influence of George Sherburn has been felt. For his students at Northwestern, Chicago, Columbia, and more recently at Harvard he has been a devoted and unselfish "guide, philosopher and friend." No labor has ever been too difficult, no problem too involved, when one of his pupils was concerned. Many of us will remember with deep emotion the page after page of yellow paper, filled with his detailed comments and suggestions, which inevitably interleaved a returned manuscript after one of his readings. Teaching to him has meant self sacrifice, long hours of unrecorded labor and sweat.

But not alone to his own students has he given this detailed and generous aid. His warm, friendly help has been extended, on both sides of the Atlantic, to anyone genuinely interested in the Age of Pope. Scarcely a day or a week goes by that he is not



deluged with queries or requests for help — pleas for aid in finding some lost manuscript, queries concerning some rare book or pamphlet, begging letters asking his advice on some completed manuscript. It would be safe to say that there is hardly an 18th-century scholar anywhere who does not owe some debt of gratitude to George Sherburn. Thus it is very fitting that a collection of essays devoted to the Age of Pope should be gathered in his honor.

In contrast to the Tinker volume, where contributions were limited to former students, for the coming Sherburn volume the plan has been to gather papers from research scholars in England and the United States whose interests closely parallel those of Sherburn himself. As a result, the volume is a fairly closely knit series of papers relating largely to the work of one small group of writers. To be published by the Clarendon Press in Oxford, the volume (in the true Augustan tradition) is to be issued by subscription, and you will all soon receive announcements and subscription forms. A list of subscribers will be included in the finished volume, a list which we suspect will be as inclusive of twentieth-century Pope and Swift enthusiasts, as was the list in the Prior 1718 folio of English society of that day. The volume will be ready for presentation by December of this year, and plans are already being made to have a dinner at some central point, which all those who have subscribed will be privileged to attend. Since there will be no M.L.A. meetings this year between Christmas and New Year's Day, this dinner might well take the place of the usual 18th-century luncheon of Groups VII and VIII.

A complete table of contents is included in the subscription folder, but it might be well to repeat here the list of contributors and topics. Of the 18 papers included, there are two of general criticism — the opening essay on "The Gloom of the Tory Satirists" by L. I. Bredvold (Mich.), in which he stresses the tough-minded, exhilarating quality of Tory pessimism, as contrasted with the weakening melancholia of the Romantics; and a study of the backgrounds of the satirists' dislike of science by R. F. Jones (Stanford). There are six essays directly concerned with the work of Pope. Maynard Mack (Yale) provides an important examination of his imagery; Robert J. Allen (Williams) has a detailed discussion of the imagery from the arts; Geoffrey Tillotson (Birkbeck College, London) contributes an essay which combines theorizing about 18th-century occasional verse with an explication of one of Pope's occasional poems — the little known "Epistle to Harley"; Arthur Friedman (Chicago) writes about Pope

and deism (in *Dunciad*, IV); John Butt (King's College, Newcastle) prints for the first time, with a commentary, a manuscript prose work, "A Master Key to Popery," which appears to be by Pope; and Joseph Wood Krutch (Columbia), in the concluding essay in the volume, offers some cogent suggestions relative to the usefulness of Pope for modern poets.

Five papers concern Swift: Harold Williams discusses the early biographers of the Dean; the late Arthur Case (Northwestern) is represented by a biographical study concerned with Swift's relations with his Uncle Godwin (read at the Chicago M.L.A. meeting); your editor makes a suggestion about the purpose of "The Mechanical Operation of the Spirit," and its place in the 1704 *Tale of a Tub* volume; Herbert Davis (Smith — Oxford, autumn 1949) shows from a manuscript sermon how Swift's works were treated in publication; and Louis Landa (Princeton) prints, with a commentary, a hitherto unknown document concerning Swift's deanery income.

The other papers include a critical examination of certain aspects of Defoe's style by Bonamy Dobrée (Leeds); an interesting appraisal of John Gay by James Sutherland (Queen Mary College, London); the first detailed study of Steele's songs in his plays, with a bibliography, by Rae Blanchard (Goucher); a discussion of Thomson and *Liberty* by A. D. McKillop (Rice); and the printing of what appears to be the earliest attempt at a history of English literature, written in French by Joseph Spence, described by its present owner, James M. Osborn (Yale).

The fare, as you see, is certainly varied. The new critical estimates, the fresh interpretations of well-known works, the printing of a number of newly discovered manuscripts, all should combine to make the volume one to be welcomed.

One last bit of advice! As soon as you receive your subscription blank fill it in and send it back to the Oxford Press. Get your name on the list of those wishing to honor George Sherburn on his 65th birthday. Give tangible evidence of your desire to be numbered among his friends and admirers. And save money by not waiting to buy the volume later. The price for the completed book after publication will be considerably more than the first subscription offer. So do not delay. And in addition to sending in your own name, see that your college or university library also acts at once, for libraries also will be accepted as subscribers.



## M.L.A. Programs for September

Edward Hooker (U.C.L.A.) has arranged for Group VII a program chiefly devoted to Addison. The papers are:

"The Defense of Latitudinarianism by Simon Patrick and Joseph Glanvill," by J. Max Patrick (Florida)

"Predecessors of Addison's *The Campaign*," by Robert D. Horn (Oregon)

"Addison's Place in English Criticism," by Clarence D. Thorpe (Michigan)

In addition there will probably be short reports of group projects and activities.

For Group VIII, Dick Boys (Mich.) is arranging a program concerned with the relationship of the 18th century to the Romantic period. As Boys puts it, "18th-century scholars often speak unadvisedly (and contemptuously) of the period that followed, and critics of the Romantic period often feel the same way about the 18th century, looking down on it as a crude beginning of the really great literature of Shelley, Keats, Wordsworth, etc. In part this feeling is the result of strong conviction, but often it grows out of a lack of understanding of the other period. We feel that a program devoted to a study of the larger ideas leading from one period into the other would be most valuable." There will be two main papers, with two other speakers prepared to comment and raise questions for group discussion. At the present time we cannot list the names of all the speakers, but the details should be announced soon.

We certainly envy those fortunate enough to be able to get to Stanford in September to hear these two programs!

## Elizabeth Manwaring

On Feb. 12 Elizabeth Wheeler Manwaring, Professor Emeritus at Wellesley, died of a heart attack. One of our most loyal and enthusiastic subscribers, she will be greatly missed by her many devoted friends. Her zest for everything and anything connected with the 18th century was enormous, and her knowledge in the fields of art and poetry matched her enthusiasm. How her eyes would sparkle and her voice grow tense as she described a painting by Constable or a Wren London church. Hers was no mere antiquarian interest; the Age of Johnson was her passion, her constant delight. And to have been taken on one of her personally conducted tours of London churches was an experience never to be

forgotten. Her passing is a personal loss to many of us and a severe loss to 18th-century scholarship.

### Sophronia

Gale Noyes (Brown) writes: "This note is in response to Mr. R. W. Chapman's query about the novel *Sophronia: or, Letters to the Ladies* in the February issue of *JNL*. Harvard has the second edition of the book... Printed for J. Bew, 1775. The 'Preface. By the Editor' begins and concludes according to Mr. Chapman's description. There is no identification of the editor. I think that it is clear that there is no 1780 edition, but that Bew's advertisement of *Sophronia* in *Letters between Claro and Antonia* (1780) refers to the 1775 edition above.

"Andrew Block in his bibliography of *The English Novel* lists the 1761 edition which Mr. Hill lent Mr. Chapman, as does Frank G. Black in *The Epistolary Novel*, Eugene, Oregon, 1940. Black also notes an edition of the novel printed in Dublin in 1763, as well as the 1775 edition above. Black, who worked for a long time on Chester Greenough's bibliography of the English novel, now deposited at Harvard, makes no attempt to attribute authorship."

### Romantic Faith -- 1780-1830

The third volume of Hoxie Fairchild's (Hunter) history of *Religious Trends in English Poetry* is a superb literary achievement. Every reader, and we hope there will be many thousands, will recognize that this is without question the finest of his scholarly, penetrating studies. If we were in a quibbling mood we might take exception to Fairchild's own implied explanation of the reason -- the shift from bad verse to good as subject matter. A better explanation, for us at least, would be his decision in this volume to concentrate on a few major writers and to ignore the lesser figures. Because for the major writers of the earlier 18th century religion was not a compelling central theme, he was forced (because of his topic) to concentrate much of the time on writers of atrocious verse. But with the great Romantics religious faith, or a hatred of organized religion, was vitally important. Thus it was possible to do in this volume what he could not do in earlier discussions.

Although much of the volume lies outside the realm of the *JNL* (the chapters on Burns and Blake, of course, cover 18th-century



material), we know that our readers will not be foolishly restricted by arbitrary chronological boundaries. This is an outstanding critical work, filled with witty, shrewd remarks and acute analyses, which we heartily recommend to you.

### The Language of Natural Description in 18th Century Poetry

John Arthos's (Mich.) book with the above title has just been issued by the Univ. of Mich. Press, as Vol 24 of the Univ. of Mich., Publications in Language and Literature. A learned work, the result of long and patient reading, it documents up to the hilt certain important theories concerning the background of what we usually think of as the "stock diction" of 18th-century poetry. As Arthos points out in his Preface, until recently this stereotyped language has been almost universally attacked and largely misunderstood. Some attempts at analyzing the problem have been made by Reynolds, Quayle, Bateson, and Tillotson, but it has remained for Arthos to relate the problem in detail to earlier periods of literature and particularly to the terminology used by the early scientists and philosophers. He concludes: "It may very well be that many poets accepted the idea of a conventional language for poetry because they considered the interests of poetry and natural philosophy to be the same in many important respects. Scientific writing required a set vocabulary formed according to set principles, and it must therefore follow that poetry's needs were similar."

In three huge appendices Arthos gives detailed lists of significant words and phrases used by 18th-century poets, together with illustrations of usage from earlier writers. Not for casual reading, these lists are necessary in proving his hypothesis, and also will prove useful for critics in the explication of various levels of meanings of passages in Augustan poetry. Whether you are willing to accept Arthos's theory wholeheartedly or not, you ought to examine carefully all his evidence.

### Burke's Politics

The recent publication by Knopf of thirty-one selections from the writings and speeches of Edmund Burke, edited by Ross Hoffman and Paul Levack (Fordham), under the title of *Burke's Politics*, has provided teachers with another very useful tool. A book of passages expertly connected by the editors, it is aimed at the

general rather than the scholarly public. But none of us need hold that against it. As Tom Copeland (Yale) comments in a recent letter, "It is as good an introduction to Burke as I know: four-fifths by Burke himself, but with useful biographical and bibliographical sections introducing the extracts; with a sound Introduction too."

The volume is generally being very favorably reviewed — witness particularly the discussion by Asher Brynes (Temple) in *Fortune* for March; and by Crane Brinton (Harvard) in the *New York Times* for March 6. One statement by Brinton will make the hair of many an advanced liberal curl. "The debate," writes Brinton, "between Burke and Paine, whose famous 'Rights of Man' was a pamphlet in reply to Burke's 'Reflections on the French Revolution,' has been decided in favor of Burke as clearly as the debate over the relation between the motions of sun and earth has been decided in favor of Copernicus." After that, do we need any further evidence that a Burke revival is in full swing?

### Other Recent Books

J. R. Moore (Indiana) has brought out an edition of Defoe's *An Essay on the Regulation of the Press*, published by the Luttrell Society in Oxford. According to Moore, before this reprint there were only three complete copies of the tract in the world.

Of great interest to all students of the fine arts is Margaret Jourdain, *The Work of William Kent*, with an Introduction by Christopher Hussey. Other English publications which should be mentioned are: *Tour on the Continent, 1765* by Thomas Pennant, edited for the Ray Society by G. R. de Heer; *Hollekens and His Times* by J. T. Smith, edited by G. W. Stonier; *Dr. Johnson and the Law* by Sir Arnold McNair (we have just seen a copy, and a small pamphlet with the same title has been issued by the Lichfield Johnson Society, as the Presidential Address given on Sept. 18, 1948).

Maynard Mack has provided an Introduction to the Rinehart inexpensive reprint of *Joseph Andrews*. How badly we need more cheap 18th-century reprints of this sort!

### Forthcoming Books

An important survey, invaluable for all teachers of the 18th-century novel, is James R. Foster's (Long Island Univ.) *History*



of the *Pre-romantic Novel in England*, which will be published soon by the M.L.A. in its Monograph Series. More concerning this in our next issue.

Valuable for Pope scholars will be Agnes Sibley's *Alexander Pope's Prestige in America, 1725-1835*, expected in May; and *The Life and Circumstances of James Brydges, Duke of Chandos* by C. H. Collins Baker and Muriel I. Baker to be published by the Clarendon Press this spring.

## Projects

William Woods (The Lodge, Earwythe, Studham near Dunstable, Bedfordshire) is engaged in editing the letters of Charles Burney, the elder. He is in touch with many private collectors and has copies of most of the letters in the major libraries on both sides of the Atlantic, but would welcome news of any letters which he may have missed. If you know of any Dr. Burney letters, either in private hands or in libraries which you suspect Woods might not have approached, please let him know, as he is very anxious to make his collection as complete as possible.

We are delighted to hear from Monroe K. Spears (Vanderbilt) that he and H. Bunker Wright (Miami) are collaborating on a new edition of the works of Matthew Prior. A good scholarly, annotated edition is much to be desired.

## Miscellaneous News Items

From Louis Landa (Princeton) we have word that because of various matters beyond their control the annual bibliography of English literature, 1660-1800, which he and Arthur Friedman (Chicago) compile for *Philological Quarterly*, will not this year appear in the April number, but instead in that for July.

Word has been received that the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for the best biography published in Great Britain in 1948 has been awarded to Percy Scholes for his *The Great Dr. Burney*.

At the Grollier Club in New York City, on the evening of March 1st, Halsted B. Vander Poel was host for a Johnsonian dinner celebrating the 212th anniversary of the departure of Samuel Johnson and David Garrick from Lichfield, on their celebrated trip to London. Opportunity was again given to sit in Johnson's chair, once a part of the equipment of the school at Edial. After a superb dinner there were short talks by Ralph Isham, Herman Liebert, your editor, and others. So the Johnsonian traditions are perpetuated!

## Recent Articles

A useful summary by Harry H. Ransom (Texas) of recent studies of 18th-century periodicals appears in *The Periodical Post Boy*, No. 3, March 1949.

Concerned with the earlier period are: T. W. Russell, "Dryden, inspirateur de Voltaire" in *Revue de littérature comparée* of July-Sept., 1948; John Loftis, "Richard Steele, Drury Lane, and the Tories," in *MLQ* for March; Benjamin Boyce, "Pope, Gildon, and Salamanders" [about the *Rape of the Lock*] in *N & Q* for Jan. 8; Frederick Bracher, "Pope's Grotto: the Maze of Fancy" in *Hunt. Library Quart.* for Feb.; Arthur Wormhoudt, "A Note on William Law's *The Absolute Unlawfulness of the Stage Entertainment*" in *MLN* for March.

Having to do with the later period are: L. M. Angus-Butterworth, "Goldsmith as Historian" in *SAQ* for April; Francesco Cordasco, "Smollett and the Translations of the *Gil Blas*" in *MLQ* for March; Herbert W. Starr, "'A Youth to Fortune and to Fame Unknown': a Re-estimation" in *JEGP* for Jan.; Henri Peyre, "The Influence of 18th-Century Ideas on the French Revolution" in *JHI* for Jan.

There are two important articles on Johnson: Herman W. Liebert, "New Letters from Dr. Johnson to Dr. Taylor" in *Harvard Library Bulletin* for Winter 1949; and Cecil S. Emden, "Rhythmical Features in Dr. Johnson's Prose" in *RES* for Jan. (more concerning this later on).

## Random Comments

Unfortunately, we completely missed two recent Johnsonian broadcasts. Clarence Tracy (New Brunswick) has written of one — a two-and-a-half hour program on the Canadian Broadcasting System devoted to Johnson. According to Tracy it was "quite bad" — the writer of the script, whoever he was, having little feeling for Johnson. Albert Hall-Johnson in Buenos Aires has sent us information about the other, a B.B.C. program on *Rasselas*, described in Spanish in *La Voz de Londres*, Buenos Aires, Jan. 23, 1949. This last, for South American listeners, at least, was almost totally obliterated by "sun spots." Romantic jamming, no doubt, in both cases!